

## Remarks

Claims 1-18 are before the Examiner. Applicant has amended the claims to delete multiple dependencies to reduce the filing fee. Additionally, Applicant has amended the claims and abstract to delete reference characters. The present invention is not limited to any particular embodiment described in the specification or shown in the drawings. Applicant has also amended the claims to place them in a format more along the lines of standard U.S. practice. Furthermore, Applicant has amended the abstract to delete legal language and reference to Fig. 3. Applicant earnestly solicit an early examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9/24/04



Eric J. Franklin

Registration No. 37,134

VENABLE LLP

P.O. Box 34385

Washington, DC 20043-9998

Telephone: (202) 344-4936

Facsimile: (202) 344-8300